



"Honor Bound to Defend Freedom"

Volume 3, Issue 1

Friday, December 6, 2002

Secretary Mineta gives kudos to PSU 307

Story by Army Sgt. Erin P. Viola

"Because of you and what you have done for your country, others are alive today," said Transportation Secretary, Norman Y. Mineta to Port Security Unit 307, during his recent Thanksgiving Day morale visit to GTMO.

Since the Coast Guard is expected to make its official transition to the Department of Homeland Security in March 2003, this GTMO visit was one of Mineta's last public appearances made while serving in his dual role as Secretary of the United States Coast Guard.

In his address to PSU 307 at W.T. Sampson High School, Mineta recognized the hard work of the U.S. Coast Guard, but gave specific praise to PSU 307. Since September 12, 2001, PSU 307 has been activated; first tasked for Operation Noble Eagle to protect homeland ports in New York, Boston and Providence, and now at GTMO standing watch for Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Time and time again America has called on the Coast Guard and time and time again PSU 307 has answered the call; defending the country, saving lives, improving safety, disrupting the poisonous flow of drugs, protecting the environment,



Photo by Army Spc. George Allen

Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta wishes Happy Thanksgiving to Coast Guard Lt. Dan J. Eagan, with the 307th Port Security Unit from St. Petersburg, FL.

and patrolling our shores. Every single mission of the United States Coast Guard rings out with this nobility of service and

purpose in the opportunity to serve," said Mineta.

According to U.S. Coast Guard Rear Adm. Duncan Smith, Deputy Commander, Mobilization and Reserve Component, Atlanta area, about 95 percent of every PSU consists of reservists. Just like most Port Security Units, PSU 307 is designed to be deployable within 96 hours, operational within 24 hours - once on the ground, and can fully support themselves for 30 days. PSU 307 hit the ground running after 9/11 and have virtually been on the go ever since.

"Their presence in New York, Boston and Providence ports also kept made commercial traffic within the maritime transportation system operational," said Smith.

"It is an honor and privilege to be in the company of such outstanding patriots. I know that is very, very tough, especially around the holidays to be separated from family, friends and loved ones. So I want you to know how especially grateful I am as the Secretary of the U.S. Coast Guard for the job that you are doing to help protect our great nation, to help protect us in terms of being able to retain our freedoms and liberties, especially during these

See PSU 307, page 5

Inside the Wire...





JTF-GTMO Command Sgt. Maj.
George L. Nieves

Message from the Command Sgt. Maj.

To all the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and my family as we join the Guantanamo Bay community.

My wife Mary Beth and my two daughters, Ashley and Lisa, join this command after serving 30 months in Germany. There I served as Brigade CSM, and then as CSM for the 7th Army Training Command.

Words cannot describe how proud and excited we are being part of this team of teams. I am committed to this command and will devote all my efforts to ensuring that the service members of JTF-GTMO are well prepared to accomplish this important mission.

This assignment is different from those that I've

held in the past; however, providing outstanding leadership to the men and women in uniform is necessary for any assignment. I will make every effort to ensure a high quality of leadership in JTF-GTMO.

My family and I look forward to meeting everyone in the GTMO community and to the challenging and rewarding years ahead.

This command has an important mission to our nation as it fights the war on terrorism.

This awesome responsibility cannot be taken lightly.

The success of combat or peacekeeping operations may rely heavily on this command performing its mission every day of the year. It is an honor, a privilege and my pleasure to serve as your Command Sergeant Major.

OPSEC Corner

Operations Security (OPSEC) is a continual process of identifying, controlling, analyzing, and protecting critical information and friendly actions associated with military operations and other activities.

The goal of OPSEC is to increase mission effectiveness through reduced mission vulnerability.

Our mission is critical and demands that we control and protect all operational information.

In any given operation or mission, each of us possesses information which, when combined with other information from additional sources, can compromise our mission's objectives. The JTF-GTMO OPSEC program is designed to counter, control and protect potential 'loss' of operational information.

Therefore, it is vitally important to safeguard what you know about our mission.

We conduct operations on a few square miles in a Communist country whose allies are our adversaries.

When using the telephone or the Internet, be especially careful of the conversation content. When conversing with your friends or co-workers in public, be wary of unfamiliar personnel in your vicinity.

Lastly, remember that you are a vital piece of our mission

and you have information and knowledge our adversaries want and need.

Do your part, protect yourself, your unit, and our mission through the continual practice of OPSEC.

Think OPSEC !

"I have noticed that nothing I *never* said ever did me any harm."

- Calvin Coolidge

JAG CORNER

**CAMP AMERICA
JAG OFFICE
IS NOW OPEN!**

@

Camp America SEAHut #A6107

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday 0830-1630
Saturday 0830-1200

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JTF-GTMO Command

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Army Maj. Gen. Geoffrey D. Miller

Task Force CSM:

Command Sgt. Major George L. Nieves

Public Affairs Officer:

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Command Information Officer:

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Photo by Army Spc. George Allen

Brig. Gen. James E. Payne III (r), and Command Sgt. Maj. John R. VanNatta (l) uncased the 300th Military Police Brigade guidon last Saturday in a Change of Responsibility ceremony at Camp Delta.

300th Assumes JTF-GTMO Mission

Story by
Army Spc. George Allen

Last Saturday, as Brig. Gen. James E. Payne III, commander of the 300th Military Police Brigade, unfurled his unit guidon, the 300th officially assumed its role in Joint Task-Force Guantanamo.

In the Change of Responsibility Ceremony, the 43rd MP Brigade from Warwick, RI, handed over operations of Camp Delta to the 300th.

Maj. Gen. Geoffrey D. Miller welcomed the 300th as a unit of high caliber and quality, "There is no doubt in my mind that we have the right people down here to ensure that this mission is done correctly."

"They've already worked hard," said Miller. "They spent 30 days in their mission rehearsal exercises... From my initial assessment they are

well prepared and ready to take on this mission and build on the foundation that the 43rd has laid for success."

"The 300th Bde. will bring in a certain amount of expertise in the correctional field," said Command Sgt. Major John R. VanNatta, CSM for the 300th. Although their mission here is unorthodox, VanNatta is sure their training will make things run smoothly. "We've been training, and we're ready to assume the mission," he said.

"The foundations to win the war on terrorism are established here on GTMO," said Miller. "You are the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who will do that. Thank you for your commitment to ensuring our nation is free, and our families and friends are safe."

Chaplaincy Passes Torch

Story by Army Sgt. Benari Poulten
and Army Spc. Delaney T. Jackson

Approximately 80 Joint Task Force service members packed into the white multi-purpose tent at Camp America, on a breezy December 1st morning to hear outgoing Army Chaplain Maj. Michael Merrill deliver his final sermon as part of the Joint Task Force.

Back in May 2002, when Merrill gave his first sermon, he preached to a congregation of barely seven people. As word spread, Merrill's congregation slowly grew. "That was the best going away present for me, to see this large congregation, and to know the hard work we have done here will continue."

As Camp America said a heartfelt goodbye to Merrill, they warmly welcomed the new chaplaincy from the 300th MP Brigade; among them Army Chaplain Maj. John Terrell 300th MP Brigade from Michigan, and Army

Chaplain Lt. Col Herbert Heavner.

Merrill's advice to his successors, "Be patient and don't be discouraged...sometimes progress is slow...but God has you covered. God has your back."

The new chaplaincy assumed the religious duties following Sunday's services. "It's really great to be here; I'm very much encouraged. It looks like I'm going to have a lot to live up to, [but] it's going to be great trying to follow in Merrill's footsteps," exclaimed an enthusiastic Terrell. Terrell stressed that he is always available: "If you can't get a hold of me, contact the chaplain's office. I'm always available to talk, anytime of the day- anytime, anyplace...I love to talk and I love to listen."

Although Chaplain Merrill has given his final sermon and he believes Camp America will be in good hands under their new chaplain, he still had some parting words. "God will provide for you if your heart is right."

Worship Services

CATHOLIC

Main Chapel

Daily 0630 Cobre Chapel
Weds 1700 Rica Cobre Chapel
Friday 1700 Rosary
Sat 1630 Reconciliation
1730 Mass
Sun 0900 Mass

PROTESTANT

Main Chapel

Weds 1900 Men's Bible Study*
Thurs 1915 Youth Fellowship*
Sun 0930 Adult Bible Study
1100 Service
1830 Bible Study*
1930 Praise and Worship Service

* Fellowship Hall Located in Chapel Complex
Camp America

Weds 1900 Service
Sun 0800 Service
1800 Service

ISLAMIC

Fri 1300 Classroom 12
Chapel Complex

JEWISH

Fri 2000 Fellowship Hall



Photo by Army Spc. Delaney T. Jackson

Army Chaplain Maj. Michael Merrill, right, introduces Chaplains Lt. Col. Herb Heavner, middle, and Maj. John Terrell to the congregation during Sundays services in Camp America.

Heavner said he is ready for the increased challenges service members may have while separated from their loved ones during the holidays. He recommended that service members make a special effort to stay in touch with their families and to draw strength from one another.

Learning martial arts the Corps way



Photo by Army Spc. Delaney T. Jackson

Marine Gunnery Sgt. Robert Smith demonstrates the basic warrior stance.

Story by

Army Spc. Delaney T. Jackson

When the Marine Corps was searching for something to replace Close Combat Training, they turned to martial arts and put together the most intense training program Corps wide. The training, which incorporates various moves from more than 20 different martial arts styles, is composed of six major belt classes.

Martial arts training begins at the tan level, where individuals learn the fundamentals of the martial arts program. Through dedicated practice and through testing, students can move up to gray, then green, brown and finally black belt status.

With enough practice, and by passing tests from one belt to the next, students could find themselves at the top of the belt class as a black belt instructor-trainer.

"We treat everyone like brand new babies.

We start you with a basic warrior stance, we work you through how to move, angles and movements, so you know how to step forward and backward.

We teach you all that stuff, just like at boot camp when they teach you how to brush your teeth and make your bed. We work you out, teach cohesion drills, log carries, build everybody up as a team...it's physically exhausting," says Gunnery Sgt. Rob Gariepy, a black belt instructor with the Marine Corps Security Force Company Winward. "Then at the end you have to execute those moves we taught you when you're physically exhausted."

From the gray level, students can be tested, so they can move on to more advanced courses: green, brown, and black.

The training is no cake-walk; getting a passing mark is based not only on technique, but also intensity. Many students will take the test three to four times before passing and moving on to the next stage. "If you desire to excel, you suck it up," says Cpl. Thomas Villa, MCSF Co. Winward.

"It incorporates everything from the rifle and pistol, to bayonet and hand to hand. It builds up the warrior spirit; it's everything about being a Marine," Gariepy says. "It's awesome; it's the best thing going."

Once students earn a belt, they are expected to maintain a level of proficiency through sustainment training and cohesion drills. These drills, which can last 30 minutes to two hours include tasks from all previous skill levels and teach them to "dig down deep, to push each other," according to Villa.

Training isn't all physical. Students are

also taught the importance of discipline and self-control. Emphasis is placed on responsible use of force, such as in combat, or as a last resort. In addition, physical, mental, and character qualities are also included into the training.

Who is allowed to participate in this training? "We take people who work with Marines," explains Gariepy. "We don't just take Army units and run them through, but if they're attached to a Marine unit, we'll go ahead and let them go through the training."

Marine martial arts training tends to be rigorous, physically taxing, and dangerous. Hence the Marines also emphasize a 'safety first' rule to minimize injuries.

All students are taught proper form, how to break falls, and "tap-out" rules. Although most students are aware of the inherent dangers with martial arts training, they do not want to fall behind. They live by the creed, "suck it up, get the belt, then relax."



Photo by Army Spc. Delaney T. Jackson

Blackbelt Instructor, Marine Gunnery Sgt. Rob Gariepy, stands next to Bob the practice dummy, in the dojo at Marine Hill's Body Shop.



Photo by Army Spc. Delaney T. Jackson

1. Rear choke hold with figure four variation (Army Spc. Amber Albrecht & Marine Cpl. Curtis Myers) 2. Bayonet techniques (left Albrecht, right Army Pfc. Ebony Blane) 3. Basic warrior stance with a weapon (Albrecht) 4. Leg Sweep (Marine Sgt. Mathew Condy) 5. Horizontal butt stroke (Condy) 6. Basic wrist lock (L, Marine Cpl. Thomas Villa & R, Army Spc. Aswhin Saperi) 7. Counter to rear choke (Condy & Saperi) 8. Rear choke (rear Army Staff Sgt. Shelly Casinger, front Blane, right Gunnery Sgt. Rob Gariepy)

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troubled times,” said Mineta.

PSU 307 expressed some concern about the long-term viability of the Coast Guard being an armed service, with respect the move to the Department of Homeland Security. Mineta dispelled their concerns. “You’ll be joined by all of the uniformed services by the hip. There is no way they could take a tear and close the Coast Guard off by itself,” he said.

“The Coast Guard will be moved intact over to the new Department of Homeland Security. So all of your goals, missions, and objectives as you know them today shall continue. None of it changes,” said Mineta. However, the part that does change is the increased emphasis on security, and an increased budget.

According to the Department of Transportation, the security budget for the U.S. Coast Guard increased by about 55 percent, shortly after September 11, 2001. The increase remains somewhere between 25 and 30 percent, and will most likely stay at that level via the Department of Homeland Security. Mineta said the majority of that budget increase would go towards new acquisitions of assets, such as new technology, and replacing some of the 40 and 50 year old Cutters currently in use by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Patrick McGrath of PSU 307 felt Mineta’s visit was not only a morale booster for PSU 307, but was glad to get first-hand updates about the transition to the Department of Homeland Security. “The good thing about moving to Homeland Security, is that we’ve never received enough funding in the past, and



Photo by Army Spc. George Allen

USMC Capt. William Elliot (far right), with the Marine Corps Security Company, explains the history of the perimeter to Secretary of Transportation Mineta (third from left) and members of PSU 307.

now our guys will have the resources they need to complete our missions more efficiently,” said McGrath.

Will the budget increase also mean an increase in pay for the Coast Guard? Probably not. Mineta joked with PSU 307, “Yes, it [the pay increase] comes with the options program. That’s the good news. The bad news is that the options program is connected to Enron Corporation.”

Although pay for the U.S. Coast Guard will remain status quo, the duties and responsibilities to protect our nation will not. There is still much to be done in the war on terrorism.

As Mineta reflected, “Beyond the sorrow of yesterday’s victims of terrorism, we must awaken to the new challenges of tomorrow, which won’t be any simpler than those of the past. If anything, they will likely be harder. Freedom is not retained any more easily than it is earned.”

Mineta has no doubt that the U.S. Coast Guard and PSU 307 are ready for the challenges ahead: “Always ready, always there, every hour, every day...around the clock...around the world.”

Ramadan ending, Eid Al Fitr starts next

Story By Army Chaplain (CPT) Yousef

The eve of December 6th marks the end of the month long fast of Ramadan. It is celebrated by the joyous occasion of Eid Al Fitr. The holiday begins on the first day of the tenth lunar month of the Islamic calendar and is indicated by the sighting of the new moon. This year Eid Al Fitr falls on December 6th. Eid Al Fitr, “The Breaking of the Fast Feast,” is a time of much celebration throughout the globe among the world’s 1.2 billion Muslims.

The first of two holidays in Islam, Eid Al Fitr is a day of thanksgiving and gratitude to God. As Muslims complete yet another month long fast in obedience and servitude to God almighty, they rejoice and celebrate for three festive days.

Muslims leave Ramadan benefiting greatly from the experience of fasting, taking with them all the lessons learned throughout the month. Fasting the full month of Ramadan is a great accomplishment for a Muslim and demonstrates discipline and triumph over one’s desires.

Traditionally, Muslims in every household arise early to welcome this joyous occasion. On this day Muslims customarily dress in new or one’s best clothes wearing sweet smelling colognes. A sweet snack such as dates is usually enjoyed in the morning before attending a special Eid prayer that is performed in large congregation at the mosque. The Eid prayer is followed by a “khutbah,” or sermon. Muslims are strongly encouraged to attend the Eid prayer to be among fellow Muslims during this important event.

The excitement over Eid can be seen throughout the Muslim world by the jubilation in the streets on this happy occasion.

Today, beautifully designed Eid cards are sent and phone calls are made to family and friends around the world to wish Eid greetings.

Eid is a happy time of year for Muslims as the feeling of brotherhood in Islam is reaffirmed. But aside from being an occasion for celebration, Eid is also a time of remembrance and peace. On this Eid, Muslims will pray for their brethren and for peace around the world.

Mineta mentors mayoral hopeful “Get Involved”

Story by Army Sgt. Erin P. Viola

Petty Officer 1st Class Timothy A. Shughrou wants to run for mayor.

When Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta visited GTMO last week to spend Thanksgiving with Shughrou’s unit, U.S. Coast Guard Port Security Unit 307, Shughrou got the chance to learn from the top of the Coast Guard’s command.

Over coffee and donuts, Shughrou discussed his plans to run for mayor of his hometown in Georgia, and asked Mineta for some advice. Mineta recom-

mended that Shughrou get involved with his community by volunteering for anything from coaching kids to getting on town committees.

Mineta stressed getting to know the youth of today, as they are the voters of tomorrow.

Mineta inspired Shughrou to succeed, “He wasn’t born with a silver spoon in his mouth and neither was I,” said Shughrou. “I figure if he can do it, I can do it.”

After Shughrou attends Officer Candidate School next June he plans to serve for a full twenty years; and then put Mineta’s advice to work.



Photo by Army Sgt. Erin P. Viola

Next Stop... City Hall for Petty Officer 1st Class Timothy A. Shughrou of PSU 307.

Thanksgiving on duty



Army Spc. Marvin Jones and Army Spc. Mario Lozoya of the 346th MP Co. join in prayer during Camp America's holiday service in the large white multi-purpose tent.



These letters written by students from GTMO and other schools in the U.S. were distributed to service members during the Thanksgiving service here.

Story and Photos by Army Spc. Alan Knesek

Thanksgiving came like always this year, but for many people they were far from home and far from their families as well. Nevertheless, the spirit of thanksgiving was not forgotten here.

A special Thanksgiving service was held in the Camp America multi-purpose tent. Led by Army Maj. Michael Merrill, chaplain for Camp America, and Army Maj. Gen Jeffrey Miller, soldiers were given holiday cards which children sent to GTMO. The cards were collected from several schools that fall under U.S. SouthCOM's control and from GTMO's very own WT Sampson Elementary School.



Army Lt. Col. Herb Heavner, JTF GTMO Command Chaplain, leads soldiers in prayer during a special Thanksgiving service held in the large white multi-purpose tent in Camp America.



Army Staff Sgt. Willis Hickox, 250th MI Bn. and Spc. David Turpin, B. Co. 2/142 Inf. Rgt. pray at the Thanksgiving service in the multi-purpose tent in Camp America.

After the service concluded, soldiers went to Seaside Galley, where Maj. Gen. Miller and several other officers of Camp America and GTMO, pulled KP duty. The giving did not stop in Camp America. Officers served all of the Thanksgiving meals in GTMO. Even though soldiers spent Thanksgiving away from their families, the Army made sure that the spirit of Thanksgiving was not forgotten, but embraced together with fellow soldiers and those officers and senior enlisted that are here to take of them.



Army Spc. Abbey Keeley receives student letters from Army Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Miller during the Thanksgiving service.

Army Sgt. Norman Renaldi, 344th MP Co., is served his Thanksgiving dinner by Army Maj. Gen. Miller et al.

Holiday greetings

Story by
Army Spc.
Jared Mulloy

Want to say "hi" to your family or friends on TV this holiday season? You just might have the chance.

Army broadcast journalists from the 362nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment will be making video holiday greetings to send to television stations in your hometown until December 10th.

Three teams will be visiting various units and locations at GTMO to make these videos.

The Hometown Holiday Greeting Program was developed for military personnel and their families who will not be home for the holidays.

The greetings are generally between fifteen and twenty seconds long, and are filmed outside for a "Postcard-like"



Photo by Army Spc. Alan L. Knesek

look. Your message should include your service, rank, name, duty station, hometown and your holiday message.

Let the folks back home know about the great job you're doing down here for JTF Guantanamo and send a season's greetings to your hometown today.

Don't miss this terrific opportunity!

For more information, or to set up an appointment, call Sgt. 1st Class Lillian Falco or Sgt. Dan Johnson at 5233.

Guantanamo on the air

For the best in country music, listen to FM 103.1, The Blitz, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Radio personalities from the 362nd MPAD will be featured throughout the month of December.

Tune in December 9th through the 13th to hear Sgt. Benari Poulten and Pfc. Justin Cornish.

December 16th through the 20th, The Blitz will feature Sgt. Dan Johnson and Spc. Jared Mulloy.

Dial 2300 to make requests.



Photo by Army Spc. Lisa L. Gordon

Pfc. Justin Cornish and Sgt. Benari Poulten, keeping GTMO entertained and informed on 103.1, The Blitz.

Man on the Street

Compiled by Spc. Lisa Gordon and Spc. Alan Knesek

This week's question:

What advice can you give personnel new to GTMO?



Cpl. Scott Salvagno

"Pack well, relax, take it easy, and do the mission to the best of your ability."



Sgt. Jason McDaniel

"Keep busy."



PO2 Anndi Miskell

"Keep a positive attitude."



Sgt. Timm Rodgers

"Take time seeing the sights because you've got a while to be here."



SSgt. Bill Dixon

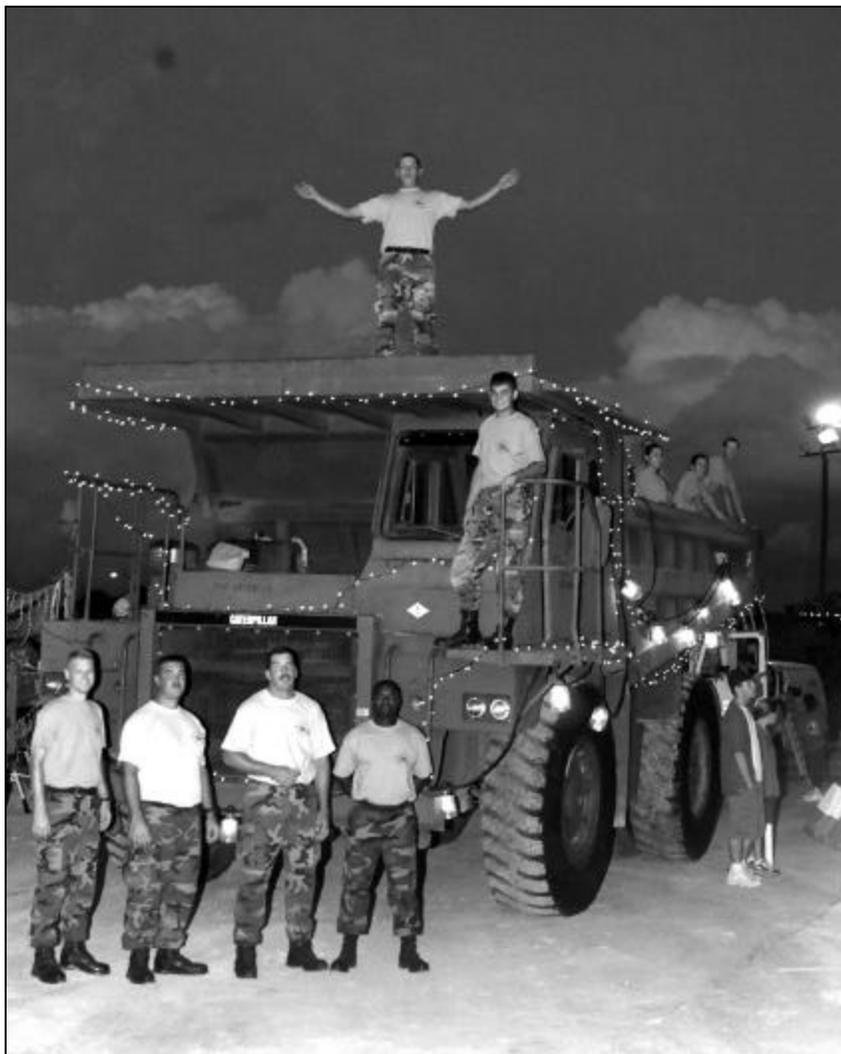
"Make new friends and find someone who has a car."

It's a Caribbean Christmas!

Photos by Army Spc. George Allen



The Cub Scouts (above) and other children (below) enjoy the festivities.



The Seabees, Naval Mobile Construction Bn. 5, had the largest float - a 35 ton quarry dump truck.



The base nursery has thriving plants, even in their Christmas parade float (above), but their truck had seen better days. They still got their trophy though - after getting a tow (at left).

Seaside Galley cools off

Story by Spc. Alan L. Knesek

Seaside Galley has recently under gone some much needed renovations, making dining for those in Camp America and Camp Buckeley a little bit more comfortable. On Nov. 27th, patrons of Seaside Galley were able to dine in a newly air conditioned dining facility. Thanks to the new Tension Fabric Structure and air conditioning installed, dinning in Camp America has improved the quality of living for Camp America soldiers.

This is just the beginning, Phase II is scheduled to be completed on Dec. 15th, just 18 days from commencement of work. Phase II consists of removing the old TFS and constructing a new system equipped with air conditioning in its place. At the conclusion of Phase II the NAVBASE Food Service section in coordination with the food service contractor will hold a grand re-opening.

MWR EVENTS

HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE

The parade will begin at 6 p.m. on December 14th, 2002. The parade can be seen from the Tiki Bar and Bayview Patio.

GTMO QUEEN FISHING TRIP

Come aboard the GTMO Queen on December 21st. The trip goes from 5 p.m. to 12 a.m. There is a 20 person limit and a \$5.00 cover charge. For more information, call 2345.

BINGO

Every Sunday and Tuseday night. The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. Open to all hands.

HOLIDAY PARTY

The party starts at 6 p.m. on December 13th, 2002 at the Windjammer.

KARAOKE

Come on down and get discovered at the Windjammer every Wednesday night and Rick's Lounge every Saturday night.

MONGOLIAN BBQ

Every Thursday Night at the Bayview, from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. The cost is \$7.95.

CERAMICS & POTTERY

Hours of Operation - Tuseday thru Sunday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Holiday hours, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Adult Classes

Two Part Class, November 27th and December 11th, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. or 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, call 4795.

WINDJAMMER

Every Friday and Saturday Night from 8 p.m. to 12 p.m. there will be a D.J. at the Windjammer.

Jimmy Buffett

in concert,

Saturday, Dec 7

7:30 p.m.

at the Downtown Lyceum

Movie Schedule

Camp Bulkeley

Fri., Dec. 6
8pm Heratbreak ridge
R -126min

10pm The Brothers
R -97min

Sat., Dec. 7
8pm Final Destination
R- 93min

10pm The Dirty Dozen
R -149min

Sun., Dec. 8
8pm The Score
R -124min

10pm The Score
R -124min

Mon., Dec. 9
8pm Two Can Play
ThatGame
R -91min

Tues., Dec. 10
8pm Angel Eyes
R -104min

Wed., Dec. 11
8pm Original Sin
R -129min

Thurs., Dec. 12
8pm The Rock
R -129min

Downtown Lyceum

Fri., Dec. 6
7pm Jonah A Veggie
Tale Movie
G -83min

9pm The Tuxedo
PG13 -96min

Sat., Dec. 7
7pm Sweet Home
Alabama
PG13 -109min

9pm Trapped
R -106min

Sun., Dec. 8
7pm The Transporter
PG13 -92min

Mon., Dec. 9
7pm The Banger Sisters
R -97min

Tues., Dec. 10
7pm Barbershop
PG13 -102min

Wed., Dec. 11
7pm Red Dragon
R -125min

Thurs., Dec. 12
7pm Harry Potter 2
PG -161min

S p o r t s



Runners line up and receive final instructions before the start of last Wednesday's annual Turkey Trot.



Turkey trotters race for dinner

Story by Spc. George Allen,
Photos by Spc. Delaney Jackson

In the noontime heat of the Guantanamo sun, fifty-three runners raced in the annual 5k Turkey Trot here.

Both service-members and civilians competed for prizes within their groups. The winners of each group won trophies, and turkeys went to those who won first place.

Turkeys also went to Mr. and Mrs. Irrelevant -- the male and female who placed last over all.

Craig Basel, Base MWR Director, was there to start off the event. "This is another way to get everyone involved on base, and we get to give away some turkeys," he said.

Shawn Lewis, an MWR employee, won 1st Place overall, with a time of 19:45. Second place was Army Sgt. Miguel Alicea, with the 240th MP Company, at 19:47, and third place, was William Brooks from the 178th MP Co.

There was also a turkey swim, Wed. night,

Army Sgt. Miguel Alicea, with the 240th MP Co. from Ft. Allen, Puerto Rico, won second place overall with a 5k time of 19:47. "We're used to the heat," he said. "It's the same temperature back home, but no one goes running at noon." Four members of Alicea's squad came to the race to cheer him on.

where competitors had to swim while dragging a turkey behind them. There will also be a Christmas run in December with hams for prizes, said Basel.

MWR also provided cold water, bananas and oranges for the runners. A Navy Corpsman was on call in case of injuries, and first aid and CPR trained personnel were present.



Task-Force GTMO members and GTMO residents race to win their dinners.

Coming Events

Marblehead Bowling Lane:	Ham Shoot - Dec. 8, Starts 6 p.m. at the Bowling Center. There is a \$5 entry fee. For more info, call 2118.
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Recreation Center: Signup required, call 2010	8 Ball Tournament - Dec. 4, 7 p.m.	Spades Tournament - Dec. 8, 3 p.m.
	Bowling Party - Dec. 11, 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Dawn Fishing - Dec. 14, 7 a.m.
	Table Tennis Tourney- Dec. 18, 7 p.m.	Chess Tourney - Dec. 22, 3 p.m.
	Dart Tournament - Dec. 24, 7 p.m.	Night Fishing - Dec. 27, 5:30 p.m.

Army vs. Navy Football Game:	This year's Army vs. Navy Football game will be on Dec. 7 at 12 p.m. You can view it at the Windjammer and at the Bayview. (The viewing at the Bayview is for Officers and civilian equivalents only.)
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15 Minutes of Fame...

with Sgt. Raymond Coles,
Company B, 2/142

The Man Behind the Machines

Interview by
Spc. Lisa L. Gordon
and Spc. Allen Knesek

Q: So, where are you from?
A: Anthony, New Mexico.

Q: And what is your MOS?
A: I'm a 63M, a Bradley Mechanic. I'm here for maintenance and support.

Q: What kind of vehicles do you work on?
A: I work on pretty much everything here.

Q: Have you ever seen a vehicle come through here that you couldn't fix?
A: Not that I couldn't fix...I mean, I'd go get Sgt. Rodgers if I ever needed help or some of the other maintenance guys that have a little bit more experience than me.

Q: How long have you been in the Army?
A: I've been in the Army five years.

Q: What's the biggest maintenance problem you see with all the vehicles coming in here?
A: Lack of operator PMCS. Just little stuff that could be prevented. It doesn't have to reach our level. If they [operators] opened up the dash ten, it explains everything in it. Read your dash tens...do your PMCS.

Q: Did you happen to go to the Electric Light Parade the other day?
A: No I didn't.

Q: Why not?
A: You know how it is... You get busy. When vehicles go down we have to stop doing everything we're doing. We've got to get on those vehicles...get them up and running.

Q: Does that mean you're on call 24/seven?
A: For my unit, yes. Each unit has their own maintenance program, but I'm 24/seven for my vehicles.



Sgt. Coles, hard at work, as The Wire takes a look under his hood to find out what makes him tick.

Q: If you were at the parade and a vehicle went down but you didn't have all the tools you have here, could you have been like MacGyver and fixed it with whatever you had on hand?
A: I would have done whatever it took to get the job done.

Q: Do you have a favorite "get away spot" on the island?
A: We go to the Windjammer, or we'll go to the Tiki Bar, or we'll go to the Beach just to hang out...just wherever. I just try to stay busy to make the time go by...stay out of trouble. That's hard to do around here.

Q: Can you give me an example?

A: Oh, I haven't gotten into trouble!

Q: Have you got any advice for people new to the island?
A: Don't stay at home. If you've got off time, go out, explore, check out the island and see what it has to offer. It'll make the time go by faster. If not, the time will just D-R-A-G by real slow, so you've got to get out and do something. We go snorkeling quite a bit.

Q: What kinds of things have you seen while you've been snorkeling?
A: I've seen sting rays, sea turtles, octopus, squid, a little bit of everything...

Q: Ever seen anything that scared you down there?
A: The octopus made me a little bit nervous. I reached down to grab some shells and he was trying to eat on them, so he reached up and grabbed me. That was kind of creepy. Other than that it's all new. This is the first time I've ever been snorkeling.

Q: What are your plans for Christmas?
A: Hopefully, I'll be home for Christmas. I'm married and I've got two boys, so that's basically what they want for Christmas is for dad to come home, so we're going to see what we can do.

Q: How old are your kids?
A: I've got a ten-year-old and a four-year-old boy.

Q: Sounds like you guys will be going home soon. Would you like to give a little shout out to your unit?
A: The guys have done a real good job here. They've been tasked out left and right with guard and towers and everything else. They've been real busy but they've kept motivated and got the job done. They did a real good job.